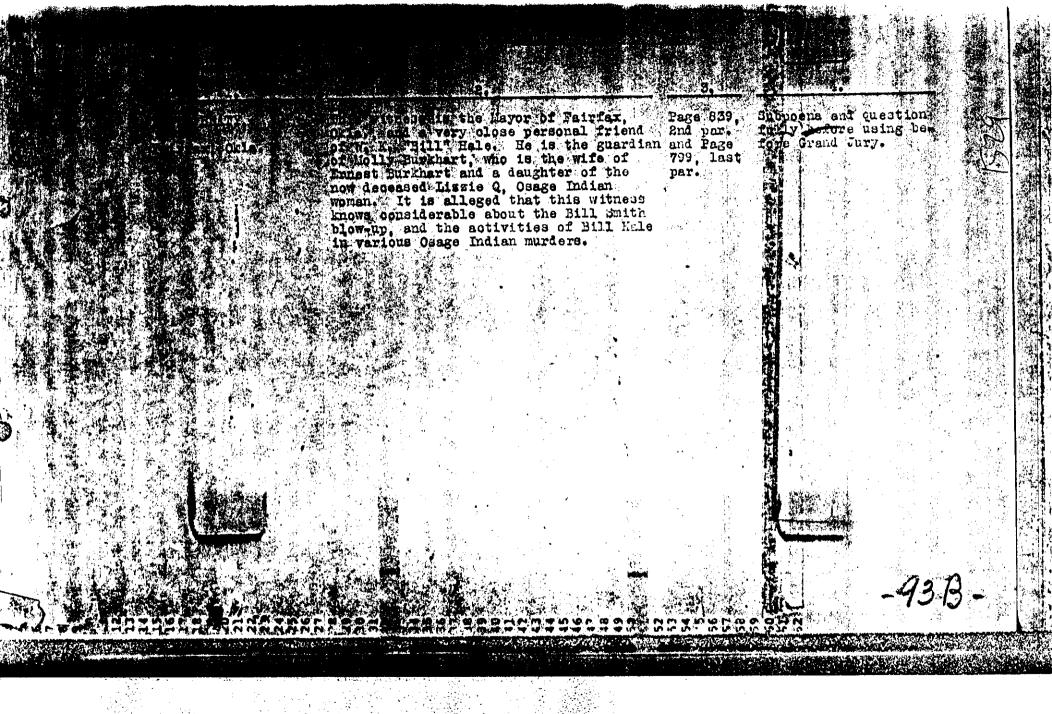
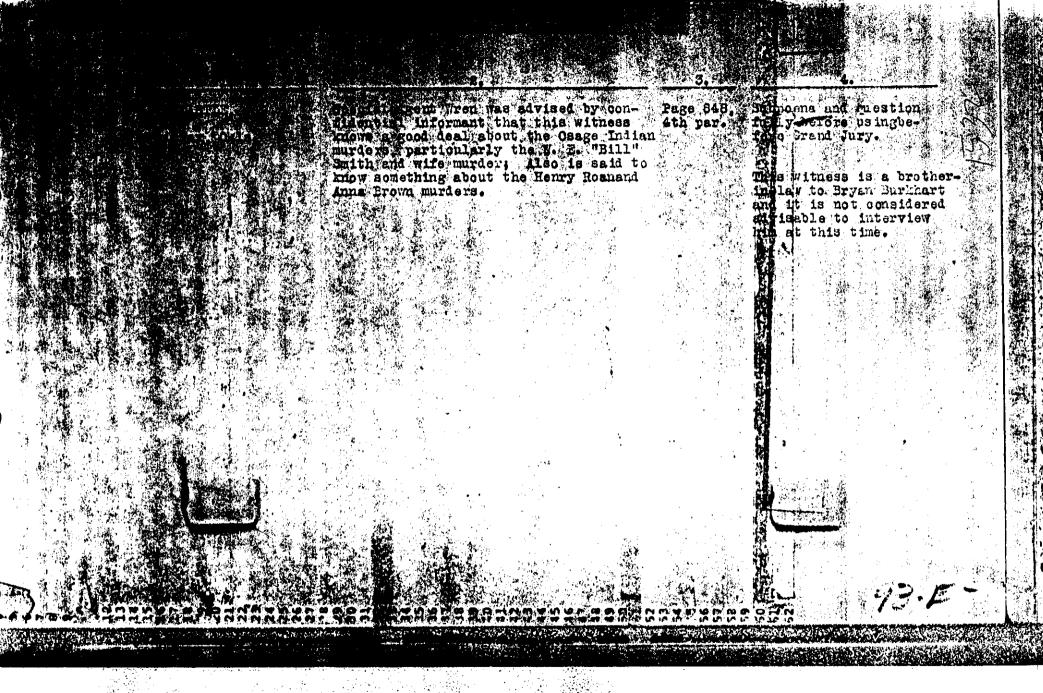
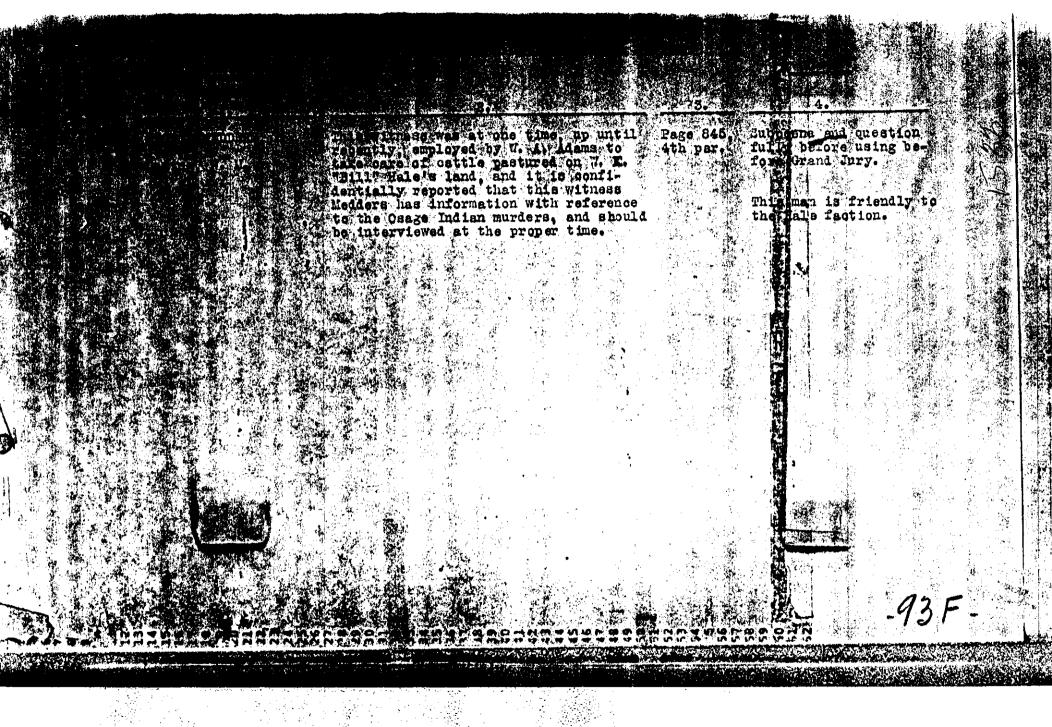
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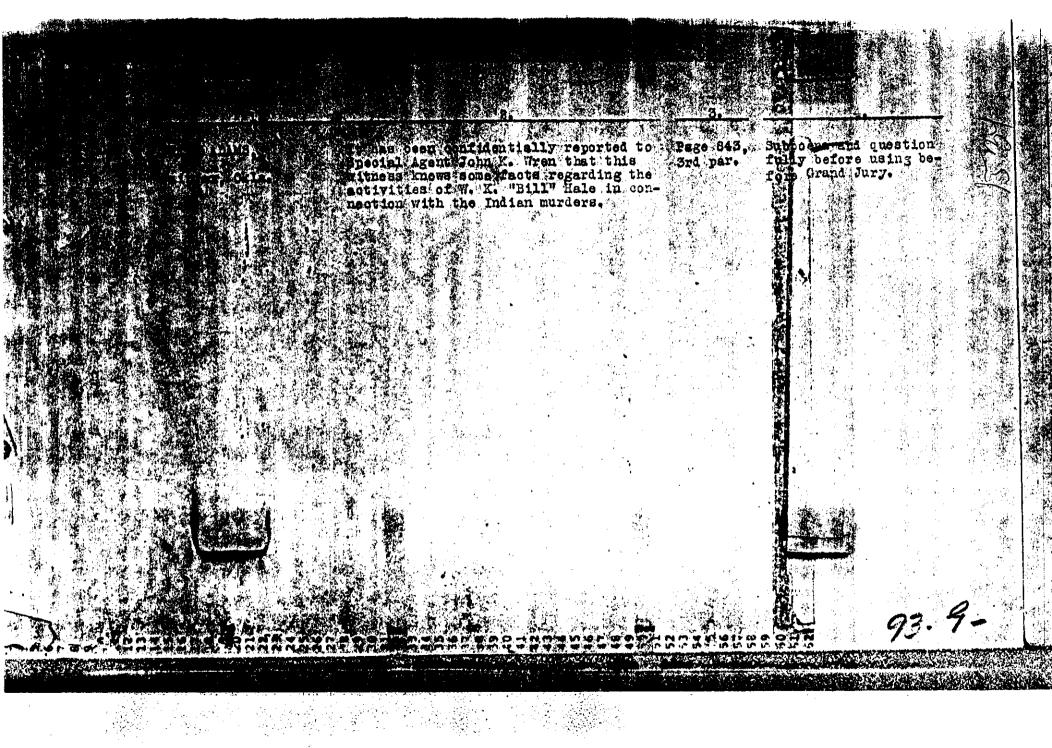
The state of the series of the Bill Smith and other Osage Indian murders in Osage County. Saincens and question toge Grand Jury. This witness is a first class crock, a murderer and had a very bad reputation. Thru confidential informants is has beentlearned that he is Wellow and will tell all he knows about the mur-ders of Osage Indians when he is brought be-Tore a Grand Jury.

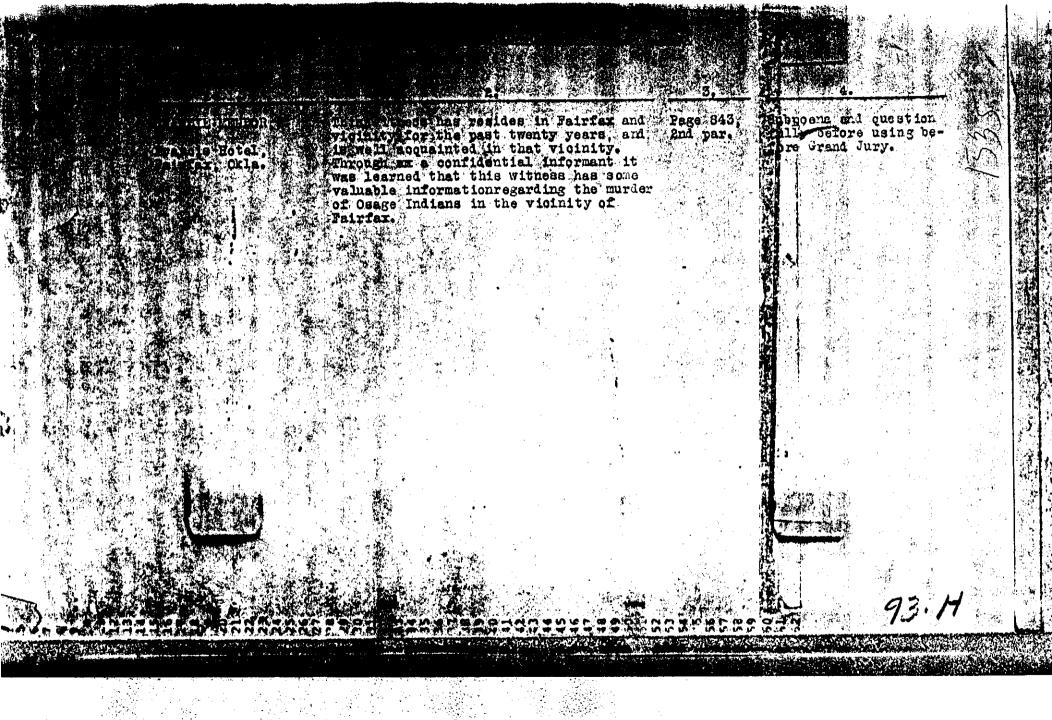


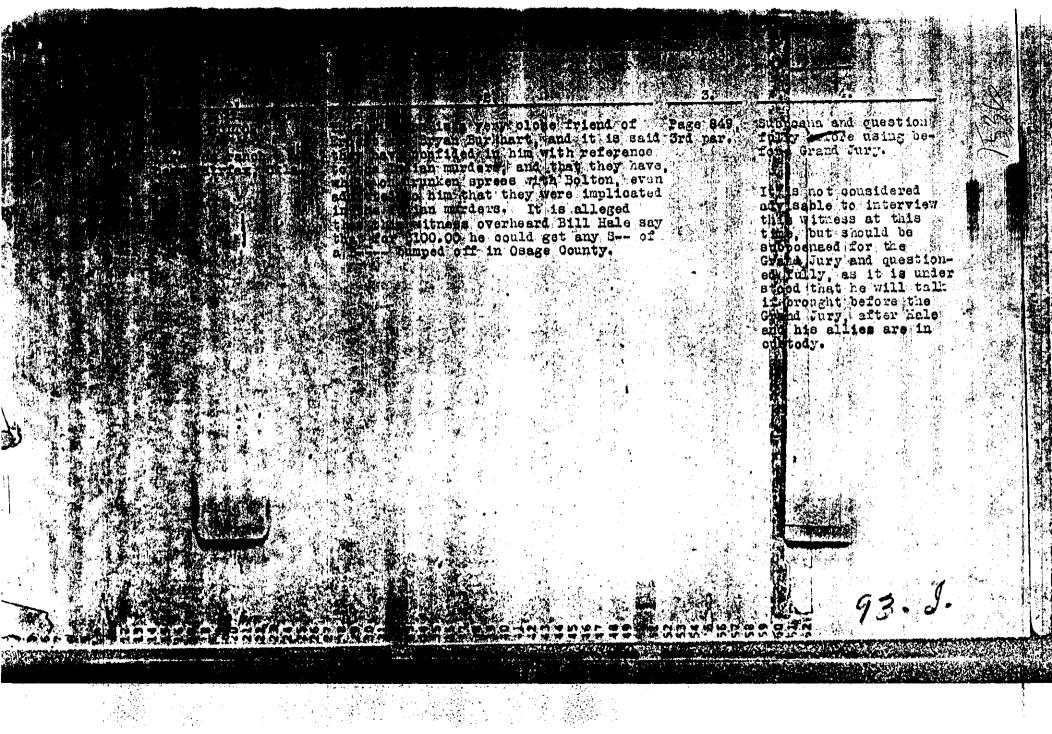
wordens and question is y delore using bewhich the day refore the home of W. E. PRILL" Smith was blown up, Bill Smith told him Beardmore, that he, Smith, expected to be murdered at most any time, as he, Smith, had just met Bill Hale on the road near Fairfax and Hale drew his six shooter on him and said to Smith The witness was a close fixend of Bill Smith. six shooter on him and said to Smith,
"You G-- D--- S-- of a B--- if I hear
of you talking about these Indian
murders, I will send you to hell."











Manager this withess was at a lance some time after the explosion of Bill smith's house where she met and talked with Ernest Burkhart who was drunk at which time he told her he knew all about the explosion, and that later the west day come to her and told her to interviewed by Azent Weakley stated she had worked for Ernest Burkhart, and that one time after the explosion she saw him talking about the explosion and he said that he was afraid for Hollie, his wife, that if it were not for the kids, he believed the parties who had done the other job would maybe do the same to them; that he did not say anything about his knowing who had done it; that the next day she told him he ought not to get so drunk as he told too much when he got drunk, and tried to make him believe he had told her lots, and he then told her that he did not know what he had told, but for her to forget what he had told.

Fage 114 Subpherm and question and par. If fully before using beforegrand Jury.

-95 A.

This party made the following statement Cotober No. 1986 to Special Agents F. S. Smith and J. V. Murphy: T. B. Maite, Special Agent in Charge, and Luther Bishop, State Bureau of Criminal Investigation:

My name is Burt Lawson. I, am 46 years of age. A P have been a resident of Osage Co. . . Okla. for 32 or 24 years. I am now serving a seven-year sentence at Licalester State Penitentiary for second degree burglary. Before being sent to McAlester I last lived at Tulsa. Okla. The exact date I have forgotten, but as near as I can reoall. I was in the employ of W. E. "Bill" Smith as a foreman on his farm and manch. located near Graynorse, in Osage County, Okla. covering a period from some time in 1918 up to some time in 1921. Mile, in the employ of Smith, I lived in his rench house with my family. Some time around the early part of 1921 I discovered an intimacy between my wife and W. E. "Bill " Smith, which finally developed in breaking up my family ... and caused me to leave the employment of Smith.

Four os five months before I left themsiploymeter of Bill Smith and moved from its
ranch and while I was in Grayhorse is a
load of feed. I met Bill Hale on the main
road going into Grayhorse, near Bill Smith's
house. Rale was riding a horse. Hale stophed metald said to me. "Do you know that
host G. D. disty S--of a B--- Smith

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win thing wour home, you ought to take kind and villanism." I told Hale, "Hell don't want to get in any more trouble." Afterethat I met Bill Hale pretty often, and every time I would meet him he would always tell me that I ought to kill that S-of a B--- Smith for monkeying with my wife. Some time in August, 1922, I believe, I was camped on a little creek near the cotton gin just outside of the city limits of Hominy, and Bill Hale came to my camp and told me he had inquired in Hominy where I was, was how he found me. Bill Hale said to me, "Burt, I've got a proposition to make to you. You was a damn fool for not, killing Bill Smith the way he had treated you. I borrowed 110,000 from Bill Smith and he is crowding me for it, and I haven't got the money at the present time to pay him. I'll give you \$5.000 if you will blow the S-- of a Bear up. I'll fix the nitroglycerine and all you have to do is put it under his house and set it off. That will get rid of him and I won't have to pay him the money." I said, "Bill I don't know how to use that stuff and I'd be afraid of getting blowed up myself." Hale said, "Oh, Ican show you how to fix it so there won't be any danger." Hale then ploked

mand said Wow I'll show you how to wet it offeno you won't get hurt Eale then held the two sticks about an inoh apart and said to just out a short piece of fuse and split the end open on it and split the end open on the long fuse: attached to the nitro. and light the small piece of fuse with a match and hold it a little ways from the end of the long piece of fuse and let the spark jump from the short piece to the long piece and that would be more of a sure shot then lighting the long piece with a match. Bill Hale talked on a while trying to get me to do it. and I told him I would see about it. Some time in September, 1922, I was arrested and put in Pawhuska jail chargerd with murder, and did not see Bill Hale any more until about three days before Bill Smith's house was blown up, when Hale came to the jail to see me. I was in a cell by myself. Bill Hale said to me, "Burt, you will ! be needing some attorneys pretty soon and I know you haven't got any money to pay them with, and I want that job, pulled. Now I can come and get you out of jail and take you over there and you can do the job, and I can get you back in jail and nobody will ever mow the difference." I said. "All wright Bill, I'll pull it. " Hale said

Till est everything fixed and be back after you in the next three or four days." Three days after that, about eight o'clock at night, a Deputy Sheriff, I think, named Bloyed, or something like that, came to my cell and unlooked it and said, "Burt, come out hore there is a party wants to see you", and told me to get my coat and hat. He then took me down and out of the North front door and pointed out to a car standing in front of the jail and said. The party that wants to see you is in the car. I went out to the car and found Bill Hale in it. He told no to get in, which I did and he drove off to Fairfax. On the road to Fairfax, Hale told me that he had everything fixed and that I could do a good job and nobody will ever know anything about it, and said, "As soon as you get through with it I'll give you \$5,000 cash." Hale was driving a big Buick car. We went to Fairfax and to Ernest Burlinart's house. When we got there we went in to the front room and found Ernest Burkhart there. Burkhart said some- .. thing about his wife was not at home, and I did not see any one there but Ernest and Bill Hale. We all sat down, and Hale told Ernest Burkhart to get us a drink. Ernest went out and came beck with some whishey and we all drank. Hale then said that Bill Smith and his family were at a show,

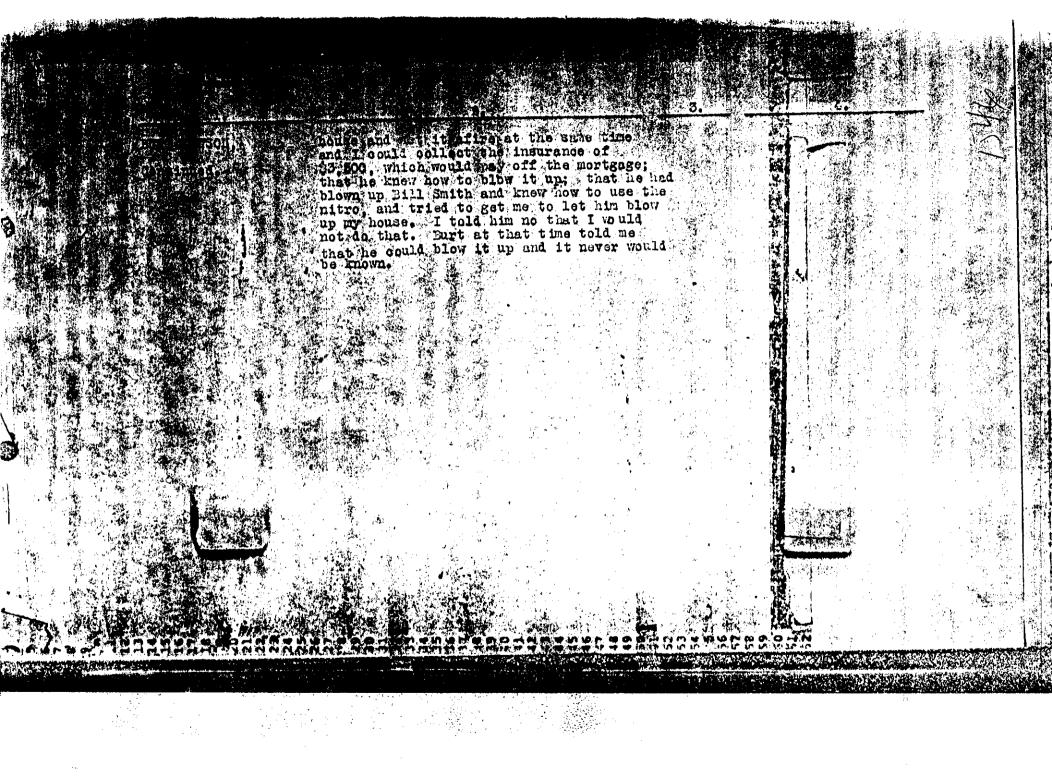
to beak until late, and told ment to go get the box. Irnest went out and see gone a few minutes and came back withte small box about a foot square and sat it down on the floor by us. This box I could see had a dug in it with the neok sticking out through a hole in the top. and had a bis roll of white fuse laying on top of the box with one and of the fuse running thru a cork in the jug. Hele remarked, "Low everything is fixed fine; this fuse will reach from the cellar in Smith's house, back to the alley." Hale asked me if I knew anything about Smith's house. I told him yes, that I had been by the house many times and knew where the entrance to the cellar was. Hale said: "Well we will take you in the car and drive you down near the house in the alley and put you out and you then take the box and go to Smith's house before they come home and put the box in the cellar, and then take the fuse and lay it out as far as it will reach, but be sure not to pull it loose from the jug. Then you sit back in thedark and watch and when Smith comes home and goes to bed, you wait about three quarters of an hour and give him plenty of time to go to sleep, then you touch her off and run like hell and come back here to the house." ... then waited quite a while and finally Hale said "Well, its time to go." Ernest Burkhart took the box with the fuse and we

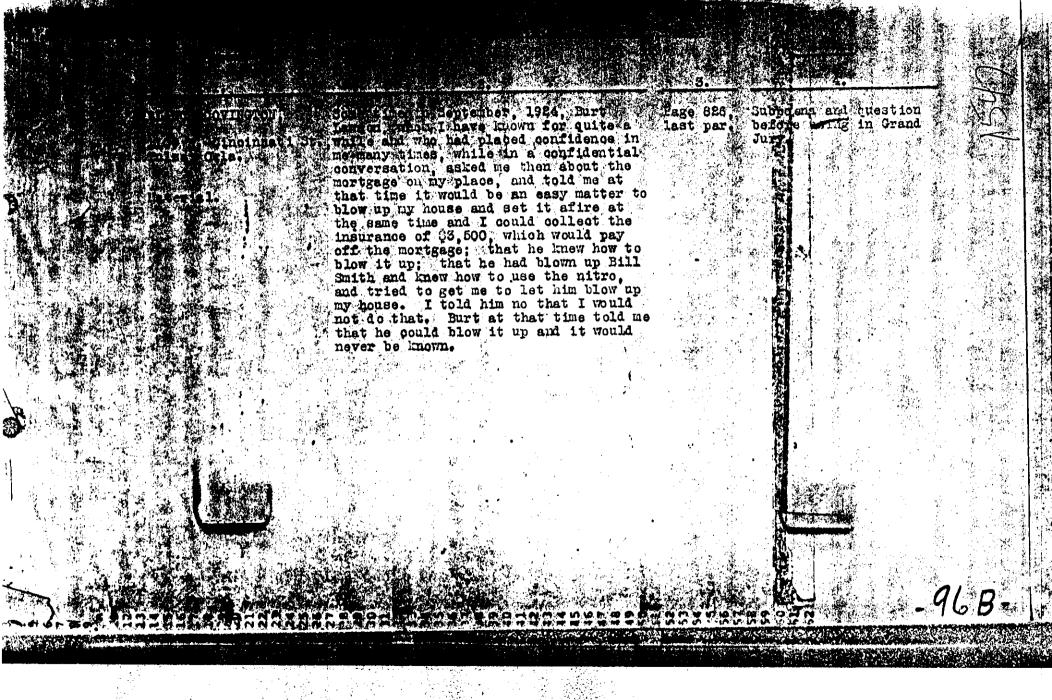
all wer front and got in the car. We drove down to an alleyway that leads in behind where Bill Smith lives, and drove down this alleyway a short piece, and I got out and took the box and fuse, and Hale and Ernest drove on away. I then went in the back way and into Smith's cellar, and placed the box in the far corner of the cellar, then laid the fuse out like Hale had told me, and the end of it reached clear out and into the alley behind Smith's house. I then sat down in the dark and waited. Finally Bill Smith, his wife and his hired girl came walking down the sidewalk from the North and went into Smith's house. I saw the lights turned on. I sup ose they all undressed and went to bed for pretty soon the lights went out. I sat there for quite a while. I had no way to tell what time it was, but I would figure it was about three quarters of an hour, and after I thought they were all asleep, then I lighted a short piece of fuse, that Bill Hale cut off the long piece for me before we left the house and fixed the ends, and touched off the long fuse with it. As soon as the long end began to smoke, I beat it as fast as I could for Ernest Burkhart's. going down the alley. When I got to Burkhart's house, Bill Hale was out on Burkharts porch waiting for me. I whispered to him and said . " Tell I touched her off, the fuse was suring when I left." I went en in the ouse and Hele remained on the porch

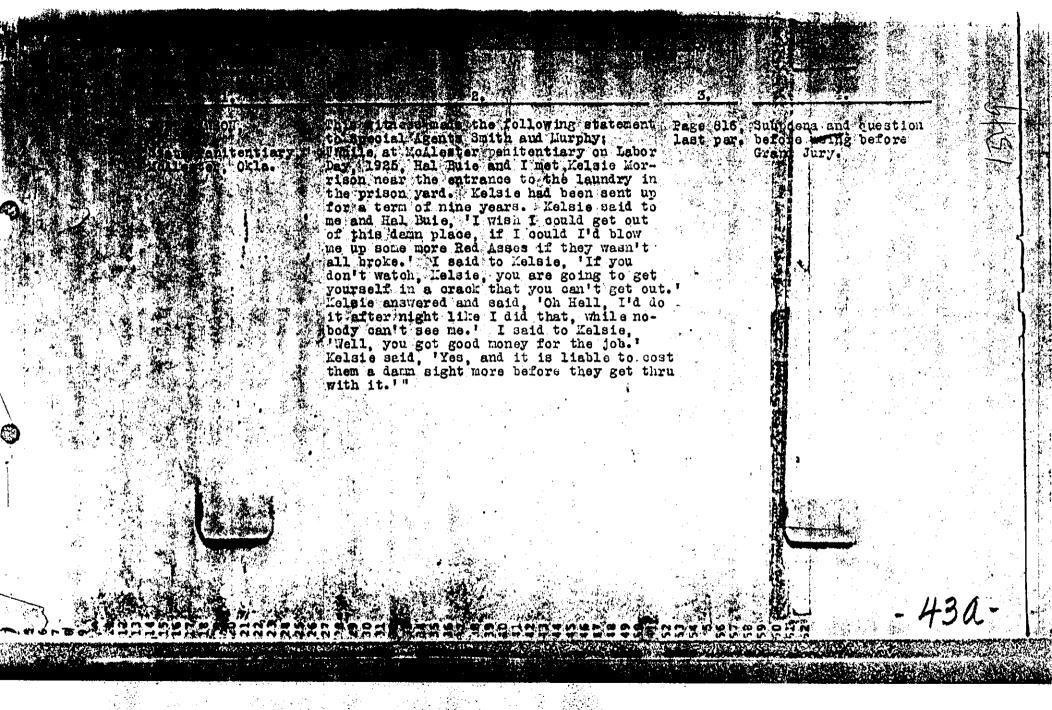
Maria of Wolskey over metting on who table and hat time heard the explosion. Hale the name into the room and said. "Will she went off." Lets all take a drink and Till rush you back to fail in Pawhuska, and I'm going to take a little trip, 7 Hele and I then went out and got in a Bulok car and beat it for Pawhuska, and to the North entrance of the jail, and blowed his horn, and Deputy Sheriff Void, or Bloyed, came out of the jail door and Hale told me to go on to him, which I did and this Deputy locked me up again in my cell. On the road back to Pawhuska from Fairfax. after the explosion. Hale again mentioned that he was going to take a trip and as soon as he got back, which would be in a few days. that he would pay me for the job. Up to this time Hale has never paid me. I have asked him for it several times, and got Hal Buie to write a letter for me to Hale since I have been in the penitentiary, asking him to send me 2200 and he wouldn't even answer emy letter.

Blanch Covington, in a statement made to Special Agents Smith and Lurphy, stated as last parfollows: "Some time in September, 1924. Burt Lawson, whom I have known for quite a while and who had placed confidence in me many times, while in a confidential congereation, saked me then about the mortgage on my place, and told me at that time that it is ould be an easy matter to blow up my

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mane the following statement Subplema and question to Special Agents Smith and Murphy: berote willig before Grand Jury. "On last Labor Day Birt Lawson, a fellow convict and I were walking around the yards at the Penitentiary, and met Melsie Morrison near the entrance of the laundry. Kelsie Morrison remarked, 'I wish I was out of this darm place, I would kill me some more Red Asses if they had any money and were not broke", or words to that effect. Burt told Kelsie that if he did not look out he was going to get himself into trouble. Kelsie remerked, 'Hell, I'll do it at night like I did the other jobs, when everyone is asleep and no one can see you. Burt then remarked that he could have put his finger on the fellow who did those jobs as soon as he heard of them being done. Kelsie said, 'I guess you could you and I talked it over together. Burt remarked, 'I know who paid you the money. and how much. | Lelsie then said, 'I don't care a damn for you knowing all about it, you wouldn't turn anybody in. Burt said something about Helsie getting good money for the job, and Kelsie remarked, Tyos, and they are liable to be out a damn sight more before it is over with. "" (This corroborates statement of Burt Lawson).

